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OBSERVATIONS, &c.

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OBSERVATIONS

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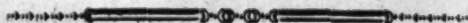
QUESTION

OF

PEACE OR WAR,

BY

A Suffer Yeoman.



LEWIS:

PRINTED BY W. AND A. LEE.



1800.



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## OBSERVATIONS, &c.

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### TO THE COUNTY OF SUSSEX.

**I**T has an Appearance of something more than Boldness, in a Yeoman of your County, intruding his Opinion upon a Subject on which the ablest Men in this Nation have already delivered their Sentiments. He has but little to say in his Defence. It is a Subject which, in some Measure, will occupy and agitate every Man whose Heart vibrates with Humanity; and if a sincere Desire to contribute his Mite to the Service of his Country be any Excuse, he tenders that Apology.

I take the Liberty to examine whether the Government of this Country have done wisely, or otherwise, in rejecting the Advances of BONAPARTE for a separate Peace with this Nation. The Object of all our Exertions most certainly is Peace, an honourable and permanent Peace; not of  
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a Day or a Year, but a Peace bearing the Aspect, and containing the Principles of Solidity; such a Peace, as will enable us to sit down in Quiet and Security, free even from the Apprehension of Disturbance; as will permit us to reduce our warlike Establishments, to diminish our Expences, and to lighten the very heavy burthens that press upon the industrious and less opulent Part of the Community. If such a Peace might have been obtained by meeting the Advances of BONAPARTE, I shall freely and roundly assert, They have done wrong.

If a Person of no martial Character, of no ambitious or enterprizing Disposition, but eminent chiefly for his Wisdom, his Integrity, and his Benevolence, exercised, with the unanimous Approbation of France, the Power of the State, and directed the Resources of that Country; with such a Person, certainly, Peace at this Time, might be obtained, and our Wishes and Expectations, for a Period, might be realized. But when Chance, or Design, or Nature, shall deprive that Country of this Person, who shall supply his Station in the State? Who shall decide his Successor in that Government where all Men are equal, and every Man is a Candidate? Arms will decide the Merits of the Claimants; the different Competitors will support their Pretensions with their Swords, till One more able, or more fortunate than the rest, subdues all his Adversaries. Thus situated, the Victor General,

neral, with an Army at his Nod, but without the Means of satisfying the deep Obligations which he owes them, will he resist the Opportunities that may offer of employing the restless Spirits of his Adherents, and rewarding their Attachment to him by the Plunder of his opulent, peaceable, unsuspecting, and unprepared Neighbours? This appears to me to be a natural Consequence, an Evil to which all Usurpations, all military Governments, are liable. An hereditary Establishment, by determining the Right, and identifying the Person of the Successor, is free from these periodical Convulsions. It is this Certainty that takes Temptation from enterprizing and ambitious Men; it is this Certainty that is a Pledge of Quiet to themselves, and of permanent Tranquility to their Neighbours. The Restoration of the BOURBON FAMILY (that old, long established Line of hereditary Princes in that Nation), is in this Point of View an Object of considerable Importance in the Eyes of considerate Men in our own Country, and it seems worth the Experiment to discover, whether it is not the secret Wish of the Majority of the French Nation. This can only be effected by giving such Employment to the military Despotism which at present holds both their Minds and their Persons in Subjection, as may enable them to manifest their real Sentiments.

The Object of BONAPARTE, in his pacific Overtures, is obvious and clear; to weaken the Con-

fidence of our Allies, to recover from the Disasters  
 of the last Campaign, to succour and save the Rem-  
 nant of the Egyptian Army, and to strengthen him-  
 self in his new Situation. Of his Policy we have  
 had some Experience; a Treaty with one Power,  
 has been but the Signal for the more vigorous At-  
 tack of another Power. Of his good Will towards  
 this Country we have also some Proof, and the Re-  
 cord of it still lives in our Memories. The  
 Declaration of his Mind would have been followed  
 by his Arms, had his Will been seconded by his  
 Ability; and it is his Misfortune, rather than his  
 Fault, that the Governments of the two Countries  
 still exist together. And is this the Man whose De-  
 signs we should assist? whose Destiny we should fix?  
 whose Elevation we should give Stability to? whose  
 Advances we should catch at? If I am Right in  
 these my Observations, surely this is not exactly  
 the Moment, nor BONAPARTE exactly the Man to  
 afford a solid and durable Peace to this Country.

It has been said by an ingenious Person, in a re-  
 spectable Place, that the Answer to the Overtures  
 was irritating and impolitic; that it announced a  
 Determination to pursue the Effect of our Victories,  
 to destroy the present Establishment in France; but if  
 we could not destroy, then we might negotiate with  
 it. Surely that Person might have discovered, that if  
 this had been the Tenour of the Answer, France  
 was, of all Countries, least entitled to take Offence

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at it, since it was precisely her own Conduct. In 96, she refused to treat with us. In 97, she refused to treat with us; she slighted and dismissed our Ambassador; she attacked us in Ireland; she raised enemies against us in the East Indies—she was baffled in all her Attempts. In 99, she is willing to negotiate with us. So much Disposition to condemn on one Side, and so little on the other, seems scarcely candid; and is the more extraordinary, when it is considered which is the favoured Nation: But I submit, that our Answer was no other than was necessary to prevent Doubt or Distrust in the Minds of our Allies, or Apprehension of private Policy in a common Cause.—Whatever Conduct governs other Countries, the British Nation will long be revered for a sacred Observance of her Engagements. The same ingenious Person remarked, that if a Proposition to negotiate had been brought forward by Government, it would have been received with high Approbation; but does this prove more than that there are some in whom the Nation does, and others in whom it does not confide; or did he mean to insinuate, that weak or unworthy Motives governed the very large Majority that decided upon the Question? There has been no Party in France at any Period of its Anarchy, with whom we have not been implored by a certain Description of Persons to negotiate, whether such Party has been long seated, or scarcely warm in their Situations. What pernicious (I may say fatal) Consequences would

would have resulted from a weak Compliance, I need not press upon the good Sense of the County. It is sufficient to say, that by a Conduct in every Respect the Reverse, this Country has escaped, and a great Part of Europe has been delivered from the heaviest of all Calamities; and those dreadful Principles that threatened the Earth with Desolation, have been driven back upon the Country from whence they issued, and seem likely to terminate their horrible Career, even in the Place of their Nativity.

I do most anxiously desire Peace; no Man who has a Heart to feel for the Miseries of his Fellow Creatures can be indifferent to it. I do "pity the Condition of Man;" but is there Nothing more to be expected from a great Nation than poor and helpless Commiseration? than weak and piteous Lamentation? than hasty and inconsiderate Submission? Might it not be more worthy its Character and Power, with its Strength and Courage yet undiminished, to make one more Effort to prevent a Return of those Times, and a Repetition of those Scenes, that render the Condition of Man so pitiable? And let it be remembered, that the Reward of all our Exertions will depend upon the Manner in which Peace shall be concluded. It is not the Victory, but the Use that is made of it, that determines the Importance of the Battle. And I do assert, that the Treasures of the Nation have been  
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idly and unprofitably expended, its most valuable Blood uselessly lavished, that our Laurels will be ignominiously tarnished, and our Prosperity endangered, if any thing less than an honourable and secure Peace be assented to. If, however, after our most vigorous Efforts to destroy the repulsed, dispirited, and, (we may hope), expiring Spirit of JACOBINISM, we should fail in our Endeavours to deliver France from Thralldom, and to stifle the Monster in his Den—it is not for us to question the Behests of OMNIPOTENCE—we shall retire with the Gratitude of our Friends, and the extorted Admiration of our Enemies; and that Consolation which is superior to both, the Consciousness that we have done our Duty to God and Man.

A YEOMAN OF THE COUNTY  
OF SUSSEX.



[Lewes: Printed by W. and A. Lee.]



